

June 20, 2008

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Update My Profile](#)



[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Contact Me](#)

Dear Friends:

I hope this e-mail finds you well. I would like to take the time to update you on the last several weeks in Congress.

### **First Bill**

This week was an important one for me as I introduced legislation that will help our state's recovery from the 2005 hurricanes. It was brought to my attention that public housing agencies affected by Katrina and Rita were not able to access FEMA grant money when rebuilding their facilities. I authored the **Public Housing Disaster Relief Act of 2008** to try to solve this problem.

As we have seen too often in our rebuilding efforts, the biggest obstacle is not our will to rebuild; it's government red tape. FEMA could not assist public housing agencies because there was a pre-existing account for disaster relief at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The bill that I sponsored- which passed unanimously in the House on Wednesday- eliminates the HUD account, allowing FEMA to assist those public housing agencies. It's an important bill, and I want to thank the Homeland Security and Financial Services Committee for recognizing the problem.

Please [click on the link to the video of the speech](#) I delivered in support of the bill. (Note: You may have to disable your pop-up blocker to view the clip)

### **Committee Assignments**

My first committee assignment was to the **Financial Services Committee**, which oversees all components of the nation's housing and financial services sectors including banking, insurance, real estate, public and assisted housing, and securities. Within the committee, I'm assigned to the Housing and the Capital Markets subcommittees.

I am very pleased with these assignments, and my position on the Housing Subcommittee was a big factor in allowing me to pass the Public Housing Disaster Relief Act. I will also be able to focus on an issue that is important to Louisiana from my position on the Capital Markets subcommittee: the rising cost of homeowners' insurance.

Last week, I was assigned to my second committee, the **Veterans' Affairs Committee**. This is a very important committee for the 6th District as there are nearly 50,000 veterans living in our district. During a time in which the number of Veterans is increasing in our country, I am glad to be in a position to help them and honor them.

Honoring our veterans has always been extremely important to me. In fact I delivered my first floor speech in the U.S. House of Representatives in support of D-Day Remembrance Day. You can [view that clip here](#).

## Gas Prices

Everyone is struggling with the higher price of gasoline. In fact during a recent telephone town hall that I held with constituents, over 90% said that the price of gas is affecting their lifestyles. I am committed to lowering the price of gasoline and securing our long-term energy needs by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

We are taking action to ease the pain you feel at the pump. I supported increasing the supply of oil by diverting shipments to the **Strategic Petroleum Reserve**. Experts estimate this could lower the price of gas from 5 to 24 cents.

I also supported the **Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act**, which allows the Justice Department to investigate foreign oil companies who conspire to drive up prices for the American consumer.

The House also passed, and I voted for, the **Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008**, which will help reduce our dependence on foreign oil by providing tax credits for renewable energy including solar, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, and wind.

To help in the future, I believe that we need to increase the supply by drilling more off of our coasts and drilling where there are rich reserves in places such as Alaska. I also believe that we must continue to search for alternative forms of energy to satisfy our long-term energy needs. The price of gasoline is an immediate short-term crisis, but it is also a problem that has consequences for years to come.

I will be talking with constituents about gas prices this weekend as I travel throughout the district. Please view my schedule below for times and locations.

## In the District

As you know, my office is always open to you. Please contact my staff and they will be able to help you with concerns that you may have.

I also want to let you know that I plan to make several stops around the 6th District on Saturday. The schedule is below:

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM:

Livingston Parish Farmers Market  
Denham Springs  
New Covenant Church  
On Florida across from McDonald's  
(215 Florida Avenue SE)

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM:

Volunteer Baton Rouge 20th Anniversary Celebration Volunteer Project  
Volunteer Baton Rouge Office  
460 N 11th Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:

LA Express in Port Allen  
222 Lobdell Highway  
Port Allen, LA 70767

1:30 PM – 'til:

Gus Young Park-MLK Center  
Baton Rouge  
4200 Gus Young Avenue

This park is located in the Eden Park (Capital Avenue) area, between Acadian Thruway and North Foster Drive.

As I have said before, my number one priority is to be answerable to you. I hope to see you Saturday so I can answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Congressman Don Cazayoux

#### Office Locations

**Baton Rouge Address:**

5555 Hilton Avenue, Suite 100  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
Phone: (225) 929-7711  
Fax: (225) 929-7688

**Washington, D.C. Address:**

341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3901  
Fax: (202) 225-7313

[Update My Profile](#) - [Unsubscribe](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)